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ON:

Press Item for the DCI

Date: 28 Sep

Item No. 24

Ref. No.

Attached is a transcript of some remarks by Vic Marchetti in a TV interview with Steven Geer of ABC last night. Obtained from the Pentagon's "Radio-TV Defense Dialogue." Goodwin, Houston, Osborne, Maury and [] have copies.

Ex CIA Man Turns Against Spying

HARRY REASONER: One of the most dedicated organizations in the business of international spying is the US Central Intelligence Agency.

One of the Agency's long time spies has now turned against the kind of practices carried on by the CIA. He was interviewed today by ABC's Stephen Geer.

STEPHEN GEER: Victor Marchetti spent 14 years with the CIA before resigning two years ago. Since then he has written a novel highly critical of US intelligence operations.

He says there's a real danger of spying on the home front and he charges that military influence is much too great.

VICTOR MARCHETTI: And for example, I used to work on Soviet military matters prior to going up to the executive suite. And I worked in the office of national estimates which produces the highest form of US intelligence.

When I would do an estimate on the Soviet anti-ballistic missile capabilities there was a great deal of pressure put on me by the military services to say that the Soviets had ABM systems, that they were deploying them. The reason they believed this was they wanted to develop and deploy their own system.

GEER: As a former CIA man haven't you violated the code in a sense? Aren't you irritating your former employers?

MARCHETTI: Yes, I am. I got a phone call here last week from a very high ranking agency officer for whom I had worked at one time

who felt duty bound to tip me off that I was now on the list. They viewed me as having gone over to the other side. I don't know what that means. I assume it means from conservative to liberal. And he said I'm going to be in for a tough time during the next few months. My only answer was a fellow has to do what he feels is right. I don't mind them playing rough and a little dirty, just as long as they generally stick to the rules and don't touch -- don't bring any harm to any of my children or my family.

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the article taken from the New York Times.